

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING December 5, 2001

Members Present: William Porter, Robert Nelson, Les Cartier, David Duquette, Roger Hatfield, Paul Fortier, John Hoglund, Peter Russell, Joseph Butts, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Stephen Judge, John Stephen, Rick Plummer, Scott Carrigan, Charles Chalk, Donald Bliss.

Others Present: Division of Fire Standards & Training Staff--Bruce McPherson, Bureau Chief; Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Susan Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Pledge of Allegiance to Flag. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair Paul Fortier at 9:40 a.m. on Wednesday, December 5, 2001 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. October 3, 2001. *Motion* made, seconded, and passed to accept the Minutes of the October 3, 2001 Commission meeting as printed and distributed.

Commissioner Duquette congratulated Susan Beaudoin for an excellent job on the Minutes.

Commissioner Cartier stated that he appreciated getting the Minutes early by email so that he could review them.

Item 2. November 7, 2001. The November 7, 2001 Minutes were not done yet. They will be completed for the January meeting.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Fortier stated it was nice to see everyone. He wished everyone happy and safe holidays.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services Liaison. Commissioner Duquette reported that the EMS Trauma Coordinating Board met last month at the Office of Emergency Management where they were given a tour. The current officers were renominated for the next year; George Patterson is the Chair.

Several issues came up at that meeting:

- a. A major issue is paramedic and doctor interaction with protocols. Can the doctors pull the license of providers; the doctors feel they can do it but how is the question. There is nothing in place stating that the provider can have a trial or anything. An ad hoc committee has been put together to study this issue.
- b. We need to keep on eye on LSR 2365 that states, if alcohol or drugs are suspected on a scene, the provider can do blood draws for the police. The provider would have to go to court when that person's case is heard, and the provider would have to be paid time and a half. That legislation needs to be watched.

Commissioner Porter stated that he read that Concord Hospital has refused to do the blood draws, so he questioned why the emergency personnel would do it. Commissioner Duquette said that they are trying to streamline it by having it done in the field. However, that opens up chain of custody and credibility issues. If the providers have to go to court too often, they won't want to be paramedics because the time at court can be long.

It is being introduced by Representative Clegg.

- c. Marty Singer did a presentation on House Bill 303.
- d. No resolve on how that is going to be resolved.

Item 2. Curriculum Review. Commissioner Duquette reported on the following curriculum issues:

- a. Driver/Operator: Pumps: The train-the-trainer for Driver/Operator: Pumps will be three to four days long, and there are 16 students. It will be held the week of December 10.
- b. Driver/Operator: Aerial: They will be working on Driver/Operator: Aerial once Pumps is done. The Aerial program is set to each department's own vehicles, and there is a large variety of vehicles. The Instructor needs pictures of the system on their truck, and it's only good for that truck and that department.

Commissioner Cartier asked if the test would be revamped also; Commissioner Duquette replied that it would be.

- c. ARFF: Commissioner Duquette stated that he has heard nothing from the ARFF Committee.

Director Mason reported that the ARFF Committee met again last week. Captain Charles Roffo is our liaison on that Committee. Manchester Airport would like us to use their program, but it's not an accredited program so there is no formal update procedure and the test is not validated.

- d. Hazardous Materials Operations: The Hazardous Materials Operations train-the-trainer is scheduled for two sessions, one on Saturday and Sunday, January 19-20 and the second on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 22-23. It will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day, here at the Fire Academy. The course is 24 hours, and the train-the-trainer is booked for 16 hours because they are not sure how long it will take.
- e. Hazardous Materials Technician: Commissioner Hatfield asked where we stand with the Hazardous Materials Technical program. He asked, if someone runs the old program, would the students be able to challenge the State examination. Chief Rosolen replied that we are just waiting for the equipment, and we are pretty well set otherwise. When the trailer is full of equipment, we will run the fourth pilot program here at the Fire Academy to make sure it runs smoothly.

Commissioner Hatfield asked what if someone already has the equipment. Chief Rosolen stated that the Committee would have to look at the equipment to be sure it's right. He further stated he would rather have another program run here at the Fire Academy first before going outside.

Commissioner Hatfield asked, if someone runs the IAFF program can they challenge the examination. Chief Rosolen noted that you can only use IAFF instructors to run that program. It doesn't meet all the NFPA standards. Director Mason stated that any documented training that is certified, if the objectives meet ours, we allow them to test for that certification. He noted we have ordered all the necessary equipment; we are just waiting for it to arrive. Commissioner Cartier told Commissioner Hatfield, if he wants to use the trailer they have in his region, he would suggested they write a letter to the Committee to ask that they go down to look at it. He noted that the manufacturers are behind because of September 11. Commissioner Hatfield said that they are trying to help the North Country. If they find out what we have missing, they can see if it works with their equipment. Director Mason said that we want to run a program that is a classy program, and we aren't ready for it yet.

Commissioner Hatfield said he thought we didn't have any bad evaluations from the pilot programs. Director Mason responded that we had bad ones from the Seacoast program and the one held here at the Fire Academy, and they related to the lack of equipment. Commissioner Cartier stated that everything will be fresh and ready to go with the new trailer, and the instructors will know they have the same things each time. He said he has heard comments that we are well ahead of other states.

Item 3. Fire Marshal's Office. Director Bliss was absent.

Director Mason reported that the report from the Commission on Preparedness is ready, and it can be downloaded from the website.

Director Mason announced that Don Bliss is being named Acting Director of the Officer of Emergency Management, and Bill Degnan is being named Acting State Fire Marshal at the Governor and Council meeting this morning. He stated he thinks the fire service is going to benefit from this. Chair Fortier said the Commission congratulates Don Bliss.

Item 4. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Nelson reported on the following items:

- a. Conducted interview for new Forest Ranger; told today we can make an offer to one person. This is a South Ranger position.
- b. House Bill 1339 deals with Warden reappointment process. Just waiting to hear back from the person who proposed the legislation to see where the legislation will go. Commissioner Cartier has offered to attend that meeting. If anyone is interested, let Commissioner Nelson know and he will notify you of the meeting.

Commissioner Duquette asked Commissioner Nelson if he was involved in the legislation from the beginning; Commissioner Nelson replied that he was not, and that is why they are trying to set up a meeting with some of the sponsors now so they will know the Division is not in favor of the legislation as written.

Commissioner Russell said that you sometimes have people act as Deputy Warden who are not fire personnel, such as his secretary. She issues probably 60 percent of the fire permits in his town.

Commissioner Cartier also noted that you have a couple of unusual cases such as Ossipee that has four Fire Chiefs in the town, and some towns don't have fire departments. Chair Fortier stated that in unincorporated townships the County Commissioners have the same authority as Selectmen in other towns.

- c. Fire statistics: 942 fires, 436 acres burned. Still in a draught situation in this State. Fire towers were open until the Saturday after Thanksgiving.
- d. Have not received the new 2002 pocket calendars. Will get them out as soon as possible when he receives them.

Item 5. Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). Commissioner Cartier reported that he talked with Commissioner Carrigan after the Rapid Intervention Teams program was run in the Seacoast area, and it went well.

Commissioner Cartier further reported that they should be ready to go for the train-the-trainer in January according to Commissioner Carrigan. They will check people's schedules for January and February.

Item 6. NFPA Standards 1031-1033-1035. Commissioner Hatfield reported that he has talked with Rick Wood, Chair of the Visiting Committee. They have broken into three subcommittees: Prevention, Investigation, and Public Education. The Prevention subcommittee has received material from other states. The Investigation subcommittee are looking at New York and Maryland; they are hoping to get material in soon. The Public Education subcommittee has not turned in any feedback yet.

Director Mason told Commissioner Hatfield that, if Rick Wood calls Maryland, they aren't going to send anything out without calling the Director Mason first. The Committee can get the material from Maryland within 48 hours if they go through Director Mason's office. That's how TRADE works.

Item 7. Academy Awards. Commissioner Cartier reported that the Academy Awards program went very well on November 7. There was good interaction in the lounge after the ceremony.

Commissioner Cartier said that he and Commissioner Porter will meet with Dr. Munroe to put some guidelines together for future ceremonies. Chair Fortier stated that Dr. Munroe left him a message that he is looking forward to meeting with them.

Director Mason said he got the pictures back, and he noted we got a lot of good compliments on the program. Chair Fortier commended everyone on a job well done.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #57 covered the following subjects: 1) Positions—An Update, 2) Dorm Addition, 3) ARFF, 4) CPAT Rules, 5) NH Fire Service Committee of Merit, 6) Minutes.

Further discussion was held on:

- 1)
 - a) Lorena Case will be starting on December 14 as the Receptionist.
 - b) The two Captain positions will be on the road in Suburbans.
 - c) Chief Harry McGovern of the Littleton Fire Department will be starting on January 4, 2002 in one of the Captain positions.
 - d) On December 14 we will be interviewing for the Instructor/Supervisor—Equipment Supervisor position.
 - e) On December 11 we will be interviewing for the Instructor/Supervisor—Technology Trainer position; the Division of Information Technology will assist us with those interviews.
 - f) Our goal is to everybody in place by January 4, 2002 if possible.

Other items discussed were:

- 7) Graduation for Firefighter II program is Monday night, December 10.
- 8) Have cut a purchase order for the two Suburbans.
- 9) All Captains have been issued vehicles now.
- 10) We are trying to schedule programs a year in advance; working on making a book to advertise programs.

- 11) Both Chief McPherson and Chief Rosolen have been accepted to the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy; Chief McPherson will be starting on January 6, 2002.
- 12) We will be hosting the Professional Firefighters meeting next year.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Standard Operating Guidelines. Commissioner Cartier reported that he has had a lot of response on the article on Standard Operating Guidelines he put in the *Fire Service News*. Personnel have come forward to say they would like to review it.

Item 2. C2F2 Residency Requirement. Commissioner Duquette reported that the residency requirement of the C2F2 program is in question. It affects the union fire departments only. He stated he just wanted everyone to know about it, and recommends that discussion wait until we get the Attorney General's opinion on it. He suggested that it be put on the agenda for next month's Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hatfield said that he definitely has to support Commissioner Duquette's concerns. Nashua is looking at it. He asked what we are doing to the smaller departments because the larger departments are going to be stealing firefighters from the smaller departments.

Chair Fortier agreed that we should wait for the Attorney General's opinion. He noted there will be a lot of discussion and a lot of work. He stated that, if we start to whittle it down, we might as well do away with it. He further stated that we as a Commission will determine the value, or we will be tap dancing around every organization that questions it.

Commissioner Butts asked if we have to revisit it; Chair Fortier and Commissioner Duquette both said no. Chair Fortier said it's not going to be easy or quick if we open that door.

Chair Fortier noted it is an interesting debate with the smaller departments. Someone gets on a small department, goes to the Fire Academy for training, and then moves to a large department. That can happen and will take a lot of discussion. Commissioner Russell stated that it does happen at the Police Academy now. Commissioner Butts reported that an individual has to sign an agreement for 18 months with the Manchester Police Department.

Item 4. New Fire Chiefs. Commissioner Russell reported that Laconia just hired a new Fire Chief; he asked if we were involved in that process. Director Mason

answered that they went to another organization. The new Chief is from Walpole, Massachusetts.

Commissioner Hatfield asked if we are involved in Concord's process; Director Mason replied that we are not.

Director Mason reported that we let people know we have the service. We had a committee look at the service, and they wanted us to stay in it.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Nomination Committee. Chair Fortier made the following changes to the Nomination Committee:

- Commissioner Nelson was appointed Chair
- Commissioner Porter was retained as a member
- Commissioner Butts replaces Commissioner Chalk as a member
- Commissioner Hoglund was added as a member

Chair Fortier stated a report is needed from the Committee for action on the positions of Chair and Vice Chair at the January Commission meeting.

Item 2. NH Municipal Association. Commissioner Russell reminded everyone that, if they have issues they would like the NH Municipal Association to look at, you should send them to the Association.

Item 3. Commissioner Plummer. Commissioner Hatfield asked if it is appropriate to send a letter of thanks to Commissioner Plummer even though he served a short term. Director Mason reported that the NH Fire Chiefs Association has said that Commissioner Plummer will stay on until they have a replacement for him, probably in February. Commissioner Nelson noted that Commissioner Plummer is also the President of the Federation of Fire Mutual Aids.

VIII. RETREAT ITEM DISCUSSION

Chair Fortier charged Director Mason with the Retreat Item Discussion for January that will be: District Coordinator System—Value or No Value.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

X. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Hatfield, to go into nonpublic session for discussion of a personnel issue at 11:20 a.m.; by roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

No votes were taken during the nonpublic session.

Motion by Commissioner Hatfield, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to come out of nonpublic session at 12:27 p.m.; by roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made, seconded, and passed to adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director